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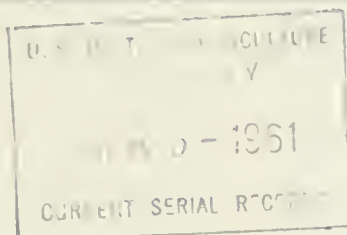
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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



BEANS  
FDP 4-61  
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## U.S. IMPORTS OF BEANS, PEAS, LENTILS

### AND GARBANZOS -- A HISTORY

The U.S., once the world's largest importer of dry beans -- 1 to 2 million bags a year, has dropped to little more than 100,000 bags in recent years. Imports of peas, lentils and garbanzos have dropped likewise, though not so sharply. Combined imports of all these commodities totaled only 170,000 bags in the calendar year 1960.

The bulk of the imports were beans and garbanzos. Beans came from more than 18 different countries. Chile was the largest -- with Peru, Italy, and Portugal also important. The Peruvian imports were likely mung beans. Garbanzos came from more than six countries, Portugal was the largest, with French Morocco and Mexico also important.

The bulk of the peas came from the Dominican Republic, New Zealand and Canada. Pigeon peas probably constitute the bulk of pea imports from the Dominican Republic.

Whereas the bulk of U.S. lentil imports came from Chile prior to 1960, they now come (though in much smaller quantities) from countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea -- Spain, Syria, Italy and Morocco.

A relatively complete statistical history of U.S. imports of beans, peas, lentils and garbanzos is shown in the following tables.

History of U.S. imports of  
dry beans, peas, lentils and garbanzos

Year 1/	Beans	Peas	Lentils	Garbanzos
	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/	1,000 bags 2/
1920 .....	1,220	--	--	--
1921 .....	720	--	--	--
1922 .....	580	--	--	--
1923 .....	1,480	--	--	--
1924 .....	1,020	--	--	--
1925 .....	880	--	--	--
1926 .....	1,010	--	--	--
1927 .....	1,120	--	--	--
1928 .....	1,800	310	--	--
1929 .....	1,460	410	--	--
1930 .....	1,260	150	--	--
1931 .....	480	200	--	--
1932 .....	180	210	--	--
1933 .....	200	250	--	--
1934 .....	250	3/ 170	--	--
1935 .....	352	69	4/ 94	5/ 111
1936 .....	198	21	96	112
1937 .....	549	26	88	116
1938 .....	83	27	89	77
1939 .....	61	11	59	83
1940 .....	66	14	103	75
1941 .....	129	29	115	126
1942 .....	53	28	92	221
1943 .....	110	63	44	1,100
1944 .....	33	13	68	658
1945 .....	254	21	96	87
1946 .....	195	31	41	3
1947 .....	225	12	66	81
1948 .....	181	18	54	83
1949 .....	271	28	79	95
1950 .....	211	20	74	141
1951 .....	58	22	27	75
1952 .....	147	46	53	82
1953 .....	157	36	69	118
1954 .....	131	22	43	73
1955 .....	279	61	46	67
1956 .....	114	107	28	99
1957 .....	88	32	15	58
1958 .....	156	38	30	99
1959 .....	67	46	23	82
1960 .....	96	24	4	65

1/ Calendar year except where noted. 2/ 100-lb. bags. 3/ Crop year previous to 1934. 4/ Included with peas prior to 1935.  
5/ Included with beans prior to 1935.

DRY BEANS: United States imports, 1935-39, 1950-54 average; 1955-1960 annual

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags	100-lb. bags
North America:								
Canada .....	145	46,968	31,513	15,614	4,927	28,840	980	204
Total .....	145	46,968	31,513	15,614	4,927	28,840	980	204
Europe:								
Netherlands .....	3,628	788	4,955	683	1,547	9,014	451	795
Italy .....	7,028	9,018	12,050	13,874	4,987	10,395	4,880	9,858
United Kingdom .....	560	228	0	0	45	0	41	487
France .....	126	955	68	25	28	30	6	42
Portugal .....	0	356	6,635	1,367	3,379	1,087	1,397	4,680
Bulgaria .....	136	0	0	0	0	18,565	0	0
Belgium .....	2,448	69	10,106	12	220	396	206	0
Total .....	13,980	11,414	33,814	15,961	10,206	39,487	6,981	15,862
Latin America:								
Mexico .....	24,302	4,545	2,705	1,809	605	495	1,171	120
Cuba .....	708	27	496	0	0	105	316	252
Dominican Republic .....	1,072	330	950	0	0	28	1,600	2,910
Peru .....	239	11,084	9,412	25,987	24,169	17,917	15,048	11,786
Chile .....	78,373	31,845	119,868	33,488	22,678	41,111	30,219	54,851
Argentina .....	7,074	2,381	545	8,742	577	568	105	543
Total .....	111,768	50,212	133,976	70,026	48,029	60,224	48,459	70,462
Africa:								
Ethiopia .....	0	0	32,485	0	860	16,253	3,000	0
French Morocco .....	0	58	0	0	0	110	50	140
Portuguese West Africa:	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madagascar .....	685	4,802	23,279	0	244	0	0	290
British East Africa ..	0	3,080	0	2,380	0	553	24	779
Total .....	685	7,970	55,764	2,380	1,104	16,916	3,074	1,209
Middle East:								
Turkey .....	0	42	44	44	0	0	66	43
Syria .....	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iraq .....	0	5,072	6,486	661	6,599	665	0	0
Total .....	0	5,142	6,530	705	6,599	665	66	43
Asia:								
Thailand .....	0	11,305	11,671	5,553	12,811	2,086	100	487
Japan .....	39,689	3,462	2,382	1,305	1,577	2,815	2,469	2,085
Indo-China .....	0	863	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total .....	39,689	15,630	14,053	6,858	14,388	4,901	2,569	2,572
Other Countries:								
	85,855	3,464	3,445	2,326	2,895	4,704	4,848	5,412
Grand total .....	248,494	140,801	279,095	113,870	88,148	155,737	66,977	95,764



DEF PEAS: United States imports, 1935-39, 1950-54 average; 1955-1960 annual

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
North America:								
Canada	0	11,540	7,484	11,435	1,351	1,974	3,450	5,489
Total	0	11,540	7,484	11,435	1,351	1,974	3,450	5,489
Latin America:								
Mexico	7,105	13,510	1,109	7,075	4,303	0	0	0
Cuba	50	134	46	1,839	100	0	0	0
Chile	556	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bahamas	0	121	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	520	680	11,979	10,942	13,605	14,368	12,458	7,786
Peru	0	0	1,423	1,053	1,247	4,831	2,528	1,803
Argentina	93	0	4,429	3,342	0	0	696	0
Total	8,324	14,490	17,563	24,251	19,255	19,199	15,682	9,589
Europe:								
Sweden	1,038	265	36	591	1,212	1,103	84	216
United Kingdom	4,046	0	0	2,260	1,955	70	543	12
Netherlands	2,241	133	11,350	48,254	80	4,463	8,862	70
Portugal	0	87	0	1,450	1,482	730	103	661
Switzerland	0	4	0	0	94	44	0	0
Italy	162	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgium	89	0	10,200	5,703	0	800	6,400	0
France	243	0	41	0	0	3	0	0
Denmark	225	0	0	578	545	768	0	0
Total	8,044	494	21,627	58,836	5,368	7,981	15,992	959
Oceania:								
Australia	556	80	1,107	555	0	0	893	0
New Zealand	4,432	9,117	11,565	11,652	6,125	8,091	8,540	6,237
Total	4,988	9,197	12,672	12,207	6,125	8,091	9,433	6,237
Other Countries:								
	14,332	7,048	1,423	326	201	615	1,478	1,381
Grand total	30,700	42,769	60,769	107,055	32,300	37,860	46,035	23,655



## GARBANZOS: United States imports, 1935-39, 1950-54 average; annual 1955-1960

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
North America:								
Canada	11	96	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	96	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin America:								
Mexico	73,488	47,309	34,146	55,406	29,511	29,804	23,267	14,574
Chile	12,329	1,314	696	0	0	1,061	781	143
Cuba	0	788	2,367	4,262	0	0	18	0
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Total	85,817	49,411	37,209	59,668	29,511	30,865	24,075	14,717
Europe:								
France	1,304	44	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	3,345	1,110	192	210	0	5,100	6,364	246
Netherlands	66	470	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	12,984	3,209	21,172	18,520	56,294	32,114	33,491
Belgium	0	130	510	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	220	0	220
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,734	0
Total	4,649	14,738	3,911	21,382	18,520	61,614	41,212	33,957
Africa:								
Algeria	3,812	12,281	1,463	0	218	0	0	0
French Morocco	2,016	19,428	24,292	17,500	9,447	6,596	14,835	15,251
French West Africa	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,828	31,722	25,755	17,500	9,665	6,596	14,835	15,251
Middle East:								
Turkey	684	44	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	2,557	547	0	0	17	0	1,500	0
Lebanon	0	1,098	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,241	1,689	0	0	17	0	1,500	0
Asia:								
Japan	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Countries:								
	329	0	0	49	0	2	360	864
Grand total	99,875	97,722	66,875	98,549	57,713	99,077	81,982	64,789





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Washington 25, D. C.

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